

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed November 13, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 12, 2004; September 22, 2004; August 22, 2007; March 3, 2008; and June 19, 2009.

Claims 8-14, 22-35 and 43-69 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of dependent claims 11, 25, 32, 50, 58 and 66 (Box 7, Office Action Summary, and page 10, Paper No. 20091026). Paragraph 2 of the Official Action rejects claims 8-10, 12-24, 26-31, 33-49, 51-65 and 67-69 as obvious based on the combination of Figures 2-5 of the present application, which the Official Action refers to as "APA," U.S. Patent No. 5,650,834 to Nakagawa, and U.S. Patent No. 6,331,718 to Yamazaki. In response and in accordance with the statement of allowed subject matter (Id.), independent claims 8, 22, 29, 46, 54 and 62 have been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claims 11, 25, 32, 50, 58 and 66, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 8, 22, 29, 46, 54 and 62, as amended, recite allowable subject matter, and the above-referenced rejections are believed to be moot. Dependent claims 9, 23, 30, 47, 55, and 63 have been amended to revise formal matters to conform to the respective independent claims. Accordingly, claims 8-10, 12-14, 22-24, 26-31, 33-35, 43-49, 51-57, 59-65 and 67-69 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 8, 22, 29, 46, 54 and 62 are independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Respectfully submitted,



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